

Grammy Awards and 18 more W.C. Handy awards—more than any other artist. In 2003, he received the National Medal of Arts for his extraordinary contributions to the creation, growth, and support in the arts. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2008. Billboard Magazine gave him the Century Award for distinguished artistic achievement, and Rolling Stone ranked him at No. 23 on the list of 100 Greatest Guitarists.

If that is not impressive enough, Eric Clapton once described him as the best guitar player alive. And Guy's songs have been covered by Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones, Stevie Ray Vaughan, John Mayall, Jack Bruce, and others.

Although Guy was born in Louisiana, today Chicago, IL, is proud to claim him as one of our own. In 1989 he opened Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago, and it remains one of the most successful blues joints in the city. He has been called Windy City's reigning blues artist and the last strand linking the immortal Chicago bluesmen of the 1950s with the contemporary blues scene. Mayor Rahm Emanuel called Guy a "great Chicago treasure."

As one of his album titles suggests, he "Can't Quit the Blues." Even well into his seventies, he is making music. Guy tours constantly, appearing at blues clubs and festivals around the world, and he won his most recent Grammy in 2012.

President Obama called Guy "one of the last guardians of the great American blues." And on December 2, Guy was recognized at a White House reception as one of the 2012 Kennedy Center honorees for his contribution to the arts.

As Guy said himself, "From picking cotton in the field to picking a guitar in the White House, that is a long ways man."

TRIBUTE TO DAVE WHITE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, after nearly four decades of service with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, last week, Mr. Dave White settled into retirement. He will be missed for his dedication, enthusiasm, and steadfast support of conservation causes, as well as his keen sense of humor and sharp wit, which kept both his staff, and Members of Congress, on their toes.

During his long career, Dave has shown great leadership in conservation, improving the Nation's land management policies and practices, and ensuring that we meet our shared goal for sustaining agriculture and natural resources. His work has ensured that private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, a goal that has grown in importance as weather disasters like Tropical Storm Irene, Hurricane Sandy, and the record drought still gripping the

Midwest become more frequent and severe.

Dave wore many hats during his time at NRCS. From 2002 to 2008, he served as the State Conservationist in Montana where he helped farmers and ranchers improve agricultural production, while at the same time reducing their impact on the environment. After learning about Dave's many outstanding achievements in Montana, my only regret was that we were not able to add NRCS State Conservationist in Vermont to Chief White's already sterling resume.

Later, in 2007 and 2008, Dave was detailed to Senator HARKIN's office, where his help in drafting the conservation title of the 2008 farm bill was immeasurable. I am deeply thankful for his assistance on this vital legislation, and for his thoughtful consideration of programs that have been so vital to Vermont's conservation efforts, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Farmland Protection Program, and Regional Equity, which have all contributed to the protection and improvement of Lake Champlain. President Obama then appointed Dave to lead NRCS, a role that he has filled admirably for 4 years working closely with Secretary Vilsack to advance voluntary, incentive-based private land conservation.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Chief White for his years of dedicated service to this Nation. I wish him well in his retirement and I hope he will come visit us soon in Vermont to sample our many delicious "value-added" agricultural products.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT RUSSELL NEARY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Lieutenant Russell Neary, a brave volunteer firefighter who was killed in the line of duty during Hurricane Sandy. He served the Town of Easton as President of the Easton Volunteer Fire Company and volunteer EMT and worked in Stamford as a vice president of General Reinsurance Company. He was deeply respected as a friendly and compassionate resident and beloved father and husband. I know his family well.

When Sandy struck Connecticut the evening of October 29, Lieutenant Neary responded to a call without hesitation—one of the many evenings over the past 13 years when he put himself in harm's way to respond to a resident in need. Tragically, when clearing the road of a fallen branch, he was fatally injured. Lieutenant Neary was the first firefighter in Easton's history to die in the line of duty. His family has a history of public service, including his brother Fire Marshal Peter Neary.

In the following days after this tragedy, members of neighboring fire departments and emergency responders volunteered their time to assist Easton Fire Company firefighters, allowing them to mourn the death of their col-

league and friend—a demonstration of brotherhood and solidarity across Connecticut public safety personnel.

Regarded as family by Chief James M. Girardi and fellow members of the Easton Volunteer Fire Company, Lieutenant Neary was tearfully mourned and remembered for days after his tragic death as "a powerful force of good will and compassion to all who met him." He was recalled by many as a sincere member of the community who genuinely cared for and enjoyed helping others. I joined more than 1,000 people—gathered from around Connecticut, the Nation, and even Canada to pay tribute to this remarkable public servant. His legacy will live on through this spirit of giving that has touched and inspired so many.

I am honored to salute Lieutenant Neary and invite my Senate colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of this gracious first responder, friend, and family member, who lost his life while keeping others safe from harm.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DONALD SINGER

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor of Col. Donald M. Singer, an airman who fought in Vietnam and a hero of America.

Donald and his wife Elizabeth had four children.

He was stationed as an Electronic Warfare Officer at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. This Nation called Donald Singer to service in Vietnam in April of 1966. After training in California and before his deployment overseas, Donald got to attend the confirmation of his oldest daughter, 10-year-old Susan. That was the last time Susan saw her dad.

Maj. Donald Singer was selected to be part of an elite group of airmen known as the "Wild Weasels." In August of 1966, on a mission north of Hanoi, North Vietnamese forces shot down his F-105 fighter jet. Both men on board ejected.

Nobody knows exactly what happened after that. But reports indicate Donald's parachute never fully opened. And he was never heard from again. The U.S. Government considered Donald missing in action and despite his status, promoted him to the rank of colonel.

Eleven years later, in 1977, the Singer family got a phone call. Donald's remains had been found. And at last, he was coming home to the United States. Today, Colonel Singer's remains rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Although Colonel Singer was a decorated airman, his family never received all the honors he earned in service to this Nation.

It was my honor to present them to his daughter Susan, on her birthday, December 7, 2012. On behalf of a grateful nation, I presented Col. Donald Singer's Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation Medal, and his Presidential Unit Citation.